

# **Carbon Footprint**

## **What is a carbon footprint?**

A carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere caused by humans. It is a tool used to understand your human impacts on the environment. Carbon footprints are usually determined from a certain time frame. Usually, a carbon footprint is calculated over 12 months. Carbon dioxide is most commonly measured in tonnes.

## **Carbon Dioxide:**

Carbon dioxide is not bad. In fact, humans breathe out carbon dioxide, and plants take carbon dioxide. Before the industrial revolution, there was a healthy amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. However, the industrial revolution was a period of major industrialization that occurred during the late 1700s and the early 1800s. The industrial revolution increased the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. However, today, we are releasing way more carbon dioxide than ever. What makes carbon dioxide bad? Carbon dioxide becomes dangerous, when it enters the atmosphere. Too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere eventually causes global warming. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas. Greenhouse gases cause global warming.

## **Primary footprint:**

A primary footprint is the sum of the direct emission of carbon dioxide from human activities. Some examples are air travel, cars, furnaces, water heaters, and any other burning of fossil fuels.

## **Secondary footprint:**

A secondary footprint is the sum of the indirect emissions associated with the manufacture and breakdown of all products, services, and food and individual consumes. For example, toys don't hurt the environment, but the factory that makes the toy, is releasing carbon dioxide through smokestacks. That is an example of an indirect footprint.

## **How can you know your carbon footprint?**

Carbon footprints can be determined by using a carbon footprint calculator. Carbon footprint calculators are questionnaires that show you how much you waste. In other words, you answer some questions, and the result is displayed in a specific way. The result is shown in how many planets we would need, if everybody lived your lifestyle, depending on what you answered for your questions. For a better understanding, I used the carbon footprint calculator, and answered some questions. My result, was that if everybody lived exactly like me, we would need 2.99 planets. It helped me realize, how much waste I produce. This tool can help you find simple ways to reduce your carbon footprint.

## **How can you reduce your carbon footprint?**

Energy used to produce, deliver, and dispose of junk mail, creates more greenhouse gas emissions than 2.8 million cars. There is a service called partner41pounds, which will contacts

dozens of direct mail companies to remove your name from lists, including catalogs you specify. It only costs \$41 for everybody in your home, for five years.

With the world's growing reliance on the internet, the office is becoming a major driver of climate change. The energy required to power all the worlds' computers, data storage, and communication networks, is expected to double by 2020. There is a service called ePlusGreen, which offers free technology and monitors that can help minimize energy usage from computers to office networks, which will help reduce carbon emissions.

Driving better is a good way to reduce your carbon footprint. 30% of the difference in miles per gallon (MPG) is due to driving habits alone. You can save more than a ton of carbon dioxide per year by accelerating slowly and smoothly, driving at the speed limit, maintaining a steady speed, and anticipating your stops and starts. Keeping your tires properly inflated can save 400-700 pounds of carbon dioxide per year.